

Friends of the Gile Flowage (F.O.G.) Newsletter– *Important News on VHS*



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Protecting and enhancing the Gile Flowage for now... and future generations

Winter 2008

Flowage Factoids

What's In A Name?

Gile, Wisconsin: This community lies at the north end of the Flowage. One tradition says it was named after Gordon H. Gile, an owner of the local iron company. Another says it honors surveyor Miles Giles. Gile is technically a part of the City of Montreal although many Gile residents fiercely defend Gile's autonomy. The Gile Flowage takes its name from this community.

City of Montreal: Montreal is a city of the 4th class— a specific municipal jurisdiction. The only other "city" in Iron County is Hurley. Montreal was originally incorporated as the Village of Hamilton, but in 1924 electors changed the name to honor of the Montreal Mine located there.

Town of Pence: This town that incorporates the west side of the Gile Flowage., with a small piece of Pence extending on the east side of the Flowage. Pence as originally part of the City of Montreal. It was formed in 1923 and originally named the Town of Clement, but later changed to Pence.

Town of Carey: Incorporates the majority of east side of the Flowage. Carey was created from the remnants of the Town of Vaughn which existed when Iron County was still part of Ashland County. The Town of Vaughn was shaped like a key. It the most irregular shaped township in Wisconsin being 16 miles long and ranging between 7 miles wide at its southern border to 1/4 miles wide in some in places. When Iron County was formed in 1893, Vaughn was dissolved and the township was re-shaped and renamed "Carey".

NEW GILE FLOWAGE BOAT LANDING INSTALLED... thanks to a little help from our friends!

FOG Works With Xcel Energy To Replace Aging, Unsafe Boat Pence 4-H Boat Landing

Renovations on the "Pence 4H Boat Landing", the boat ramp is located on the west side of the Gile Flowage along Spring Camp Road are complete, thanks to help from FOG and Xcel Energy. Instead of an aging, unsafe boat ramp, Flowage users will now find a new concrete ramp that provides safe access while protecting the shoreline.

The project started when FOG member Jim Kaffine of Pence alerted FOG President Cathy Techtmann to the safety and environmental problems caused by the rapidly deteriorating boat landing.

After years of use the boat landing ramp showed extreme signs of wear including broken concrete pads, dangerous exposed rebar, and uneven launch surfaces creating a hazard for users. Boaters were forced to launch from the shore also creating a potential erosion problem along Spring Camp Road.

Techtmann contacted Rob Olson-Xcel Energy's Hydrolicensing Specialist ask for help to renovate the landing. Xcel Energy owns approximately 1200 acres of non-submerged land within the Gile Flowage including the riparian shoreline area.

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From this, a safety hazard for boaters and an erosion problem



... to a poured concrete landing that will provide a safe launch facility for boaters while protecting the shoreline

Gile Flowage Boat Landing Replaced (con't from Page 1)

Mr. Olson was immediately concerned about the condition of the Pence landing, both for the safety of Flowage users and the Flowage environment. At his request, FOG issued an article warning boaters about the landing's condition.

FOG members assisted in securing measurements, photos, and local information needed for the boat ramp construction permit. DNR Senior Fishery Manager Jeff Roth and Water Regulations and Zoning Specialist Dan Houston assisted with the permitting process.

An Xcel Energy construction crew, lead by Rick Schwartz, completed the new poured concrete ramp and shoreline stabilization project in October. Jim Kaffine, along with part time Flowage resident Stan Matusewic, assisted the Xcel crew with the installation by providing important local knowledge that resulted in the best placement for the ramp and erosion control structures.

This project is a great example of the partnership between Xcel Energy, FOG, and the local community.

The Pence 4H Landing is a popular put-in for boaters. With these improvements it will remain one of the best low water launch sites on the Flowage for years to come.



Xcel work crew pouring the boat landing's concrete base.

Treasurer's Report for 2007

Jeanne Matchefts, FOG Treasurer

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS AS OF 2/8/07

*We received word this summer that our application for federal tax exemption under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code was approved. **This exemption was effective as of February 8, 2007.** So anyone with donations to FOG after this date may deduct these donations from their taxes in 2007. Following this determination, we applied for exemption from state sales tax. This was granted to FOG in the summer of 2007 and will help greatly, especially for large purchases.*

There has not been much treasury activity in recent months, but membership dues for 2007 continued to come in into the fall. At this time we have approximately 80 paid members. The treasury has \$2685, most of this money raised from dues and donations. We did not receive any grants during 2007 and had no large expenditures.

Thank you all for your continued support of FOG and remember that 2008 memberships are due as of January 1st.

*Jeanne Matchefts
FOG Treasurer*





IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME !

Dear Friends;

January 1st marks the beginning of a New Year and time for renewing your membership to the Friends of the Gile Flowage. If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to renew your membership today.

After a whirlwind of grant projects in 2007 we concentrated on getting FOG on the Web so that information, research and news about the Flowage can be accessed via the Internet. I would encourage you to visit the website often as we continue to update it with new information. In 2007, FOG achieved official recognition as a 501c(3) non-profit organization, thanks to a lot of hard work by FOG Treasurer Jeanne Matchefts. Anyone who has dealt with the Department of Revenue will appreciate the amount of paperwork Jeanne had to wade through to accomplish this. What does non-profit status mean to FOG? We are now eligible to apply for status as a recognized lake association eligible to receive DNR grants and other funding open to non-profits, and our purchase are tax-exempt. Plus donations made to FOG are now tax-exempt!

As you have read in this newsletter, we also completed a very important project to renovate the Pence 4H Boat Landing. It is now a poured concrete landing with the adjacent shoreline stabilized for erosion control. I'd like to thank Rob Olson-Xcel Energy Hydro Licensing Specialist and the Xcel work crew for the beautiful job they did on the landing. My special thanks to Jim Kaffine who made us aware of the problem and to Jim and Stan Matuswek who helped the work crew make sure that the landing was properly placed for best boater usage.

I would also like to thank the FOG Board members who contribute their time and expertise during the year whenever needed including Vice President Dan Bormann, Treasurer Jeanne Matchefts, Secretary Joel Enking, and Board Members-At-Large Jim Kaffine, Gary Miles, Gary Hopp, and Al Sobczak.

Thank you for your continued support, we can't do it without you!

Cathy

Cathy Techtmann, FOG President



FROM THE FLOWAGE

It's ice fishing time again and good catches of walleye have been reported on Flowage, with anglers now seeking out the blue gills.

The FOG Board will be looking into the possibility of using FOG funds to donate to the cost of testing fish for stocking in the Flowage in 2008. Because of the threat from VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia), only tested fish can be stocked by the DNR.

The problem is that the DNR does not have the enough funds to meet the demand for fish and must rely on lake associations for donations. According to Jeff Roth, Senior Fisheries Biologist, as of now it is uncertain whether or not the DNR will be able to make field transfers of fish in 2008, even with donations. The fisheries management board is preparing a plan that will address this issue. Mr. Roth indicated that they are going to try to get some waivers but for now no one knows where fish stocking stands.

We will keep FOG members posted on these developments as we know more.



Now On-The-Web at
friendsofthegile.org



Happy New Year!

This is our first FOG newsletter for 2008
Thanks for supporting the Friends of the Gile Flowage
and helping enhance this wonderful resource
that we share a passion for.

Here are a few highlights
of what we have accomplished together:

Continued leadership and representation for the Flowage
FOG is now recognized as the organization representing the
Gile Flowage.

Continued working partnerships with Towns of Carey & Pence to assist
with Flowage issues and enhancement projects.

- Repair of the Pence 4H Boat Landing in partnership with Xcel Energy
- Attained Wisconsin 501c3 tax exempt status
- Fish Crib Construction and Installation
- Annual Meetings: Every Memorial Weekend Saturday
- Distribution of Boater Welcome Kits
- History of the Gile Flowage
- Gile Flowage Brochure
- Gile Flowage Informational Kiosks at each boat landing
- FOG website- www.friendsofthegile.org
- Newsletters informing you of what's new with the Flowage
- On-going aquatic invasive species monitoring
- Educational Meetings
- Island Clean-up Work Bees

**Information about many of these activities are now
posted on the FOG website**

***Please renew your membership and help us
continue working for the Gile Flowage***

***For your convenience, a membership renewal form is
enclosed.***

***If you've already renewed your membership
Thank you for your Support !
Your FOG Board of Directors***

The mission of the

Friends of the Gile Flowage, Inc.

...is to preserve and protect the **Gile Flowage** and its
surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery,
boating safety, and its aesthetic values, as a public rec-
reational facility for today and for future generations.
Membership in FOG is open to any individual, family,
business, or organization that subscribes to this mission.

**Box 227, Montreal, WI 54550
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**2007 FOG
Board of Directors**

President: Cathy Techtmann
Phone: 715.561.2185

Vice-President- Dan Bormann

Secretary- Joel Enking

Treasurer- Jeanne Matchefts

Board Members At Large

Gary Miles	Jim Kaffine
Gary Hopp	Alan Sobczak

Special Thanks

The FOG newsletter takes a team to produce.

The FOG newsletter features articles written by Board members or are taken from news articles we feel are of interest or concern to FOG members. Once assembled, approximately 120 copies of the newsletter are printed.

Board members Dan Bormann and Jeanne Matchefts then do their magic. They take the stack of newsletters, collate them, put them in envelopes, attach mailing labels, and mail to you. Extra copies are kept for FOG files or given to new Flowage residents or folks interested in the Gile.

Past newsletters are posted on the FOG website, but only current members receive the most recent copy.
